

Anwar lauds Ruler for addressing need to combat grant

PETALING JAYA: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has lauded His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim the King of Malaysia for underscoring the urgent need to combat corruption, strengthen institutional reforms and advance education during the opening ceremony of the Fifth Session of the 15th Parliament yesterday.

Anwar in a statement on Facebook said the King had delivered a pointed critique of systemic corruption, calling for decisive action against a practice that threatens public welfare, national security and the integrity of governance. Sultan Ibrahim described corruption as a "betrayal of the nation."

His Majesty also highlighted the importance of reinforcing democratic institutions, implementing education reforms aligned with the National Education Policy and preserving unity among the states.

"May this parliamentary session bring greater benefits to the public and the nation in terms of economic development and the progress of our beloved country, *Insyallah*," Anwar said.

Meanwhile, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, who is also Rural and Regional Development minister, described the Royal Address as concise yet comprehensive, covering key issues that warrant Parliament's attention.

"Although the address was brief, its content was packed with messages that could guide MPs in the debate on the Motion of Thanks for the Royal Address scheduled to begin tomorrow."

He added that each ministry would present detailed policies and action plans for parliamentary scrutiny, including the Rural and Regional Development Ministry, which has lined up 42 transformative initiatives this year.

"All the main programmes that have been set will be implemented according to the ministry's strategic plan and will be the focus of debate in Parliament."

Home Minister Datuk Seri



Anwar alongside Opposition leader Datuk Seri Hamzah Zainudin (right) and Public Works Deputy Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Maslan at Parliament. - **BERNAMAPIC**

Saifuddin Nasution Ismail said Sultan Ibrahim's call for a comprehensive fight against corruption would be the ministry's guiding principle in strengthening governance and preventing leakages and abuse of power.

According to Bernama, he said His Majesty's emphasis carried a clear message that efforts to combat corruption must be translated into firm and integrity-driven implementation to ensure corrupt practices do not continue to damage the nation.

He added that the decree was also in line with the stance of the prime minister, who has emphasised that political stability, economic

prosperity and social justice could only be achieved through transparent governance practices.

"When the King and the prime minister deliver the same message, it becomes a powerful force in reminding all parties of the dangers of corruption, which could destroy the country."

Housing and Local Government Minister Nga Kor Ming said his ministry would focus on efforts to improve the quality of affordable housing construction under the 13th Malaysia Plan (13MP).

He added that the Madani government is grateful that the housing sector was also given serious attention by the King in his address.

"Under the 13MP, the ministry will further elevate the quality of affordable housing construction so that our homes are not only accessible but also of high quality. That is our aim."

Nga also shared that the current government is the first in history to surpass the target of building and providing 500,000 affordable housing units under the 12th Malaysia Plan.

In his address, Sultan Ibrahim urged that the 13MP implementation, which begins this year, be focused on the wellbeing of the public, particularly in the areas of education, housing, health and public transport. - **By Harith Kamal**